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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 9, 10, and 18, and amend claims 1, 11, 12, 14, and 20 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing method, comprising:

warping an initial line pattern based upon pixel values of the original image and a comparison of original image pixel values and warped line pixel values to produce a warped line pattern; and

producing an engraving-style halftone image by mapping an original image onto the warped line pattern.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial line pattern is oriented substantially along an initial direction and the initial line pattern is warped in a direction substantially orthogonal to the initial direction.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial line pattern is warped based upon a density map extracted from pixel values of the original image.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising producing a density map by sampling pixel values of the original image.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial line pattern is warped based upon gradient information computed from pixel values of the original image.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising computing gradient information for a pixel location based upon a weighted averaging of gradient information computed from neighboring pixel values.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial line pattern is based upon a set of displacement values computed for pixel locations along each line of the initial line pattern.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial line pattern is warped by inserting or removing one or more lines between adjacent lines of the initial line pattern.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the original image is mapped onto the warped line pattern based upon a comparison of original image pixel values and warped line pixel values.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[10]] 1, wherein the original image is mapped onto the warped line pattern by producing black pixel values of the engraving-style image at pixel locations where original image pixel values are less than

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corresponding warped line pattern pixel values, and producing white pixel values of the engraving-style image at pixel locations where original pixel values are greater than or equal to corresponding warped line pattern pixel values.

12. (Currently amended) An image processing system, comprising a processor programmed to warp an initial line pattern based upon pixel values of the original image and a comparison of original image pixel values and warped line pixel values to produce a warped line pattern, and to map an original image onto the warped line pattern to produce an engraving-style halftone image.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the initial line pattern is warped based upon a density map extracted from pixel values of the original image.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[13]] 12, wherein the processor is programmed to produce a density map extracted from pixel values of the original image.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the initial line pattern is warped based upon gradient information computed from pixel values of the original image.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the processor is programmed to compute gradient information for a pixel location

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based upon a weighted averaging of gradient information computed from neighboring pixel values.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the initial line pattern is based upon a set of displacement values computed for pixel locations along each line of the initial line pattern.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the original image is mapped onto the warped line pattern by producing black pixel values of the engraving-style image at pixel locations where original image pixel values are less than corresponding warped line pattern pixel values, and producing white pixel values of the engraving-style image at pixel locations where original pixel values are greater than or equal to corresponding warped line pattern pixel values.

20. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for:

warping an initial line pattern based upon pixel values of the original image and a comparison of original image pixel values and warped line pixel values to produce a warped line pattern; and

mapping an original image onto the warped lie pattern to produce an engraving-style halftone image.